(d) whether Government would consider to apply one norm of distribution of supplies in rural and urban areas; and

(e) if so, by when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The commodities to be supplied through Public Distribution System are allocated by the Central Government to the State Governments/U.T. Administrations. Internal distribution of these commodities within the States/UTs, including the scale of ration, is decided by the State Government/ U.T. Administration concerned taking into account various factors such as total availability, inter-se requirements of rural and urban areas in the districts etc.

Allotment of government accommodation on Barter basis

1863. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the hardships being faced by the retiring Government employees having general pool accommodation allotment due to certain of separate pool for some Departments where their wards are working;

(b) if so, whether Government would consider to allot accommodation on barter basis to the wards of such employees; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Allotment of General Pool accommodation to the wards of the retiring employees is made only if both the retiring employee as well as the ward is eligible for General Pool accommodation. If the ward is employed in a department having separate pool and is not eligible for General Pool the concession of General Pool allotment to him is not available.

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal. Since none of the departments having their own pool of accommodation has suggested such arrangement.

Purchase of vegetable oils by NDDB

1864. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's intervention policy is to help the farmers by purchasing vegetable oil from the open market as was done by NDDB;

(b) whether Government are aware that the NDDB operations are aimed at helping middlemen and ensure continued imports of MNCs as has happened for milk products; and

(c) whether Government would set up a parliamentary group to enquire into all operations of NDDB which were not touched by Jha Committee ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR) : (a) Government has asked NDDB to undertake market intervention operations so as to

ensure incentive prices to farmers for their produce and reasonable prices to consumers of edible oils. To ensure incentive prices to farmers, it is essential to maintain wholesale prices of edible Oils around the lower limit of the price band soon after the harvest. To achieve this, while NDDB buys edible oils directly from the open market; and oilseed growers cooperatives set up under NDDB's Vegetable Oil Project buy oilseeds directly from farmers and offer the resultant oil for market intervention operations.

(b) Market intervention operations undertaken by NDDB are for maintaining wholesale prices of edible oils within prescribed limits, which helps to maintain retail prices at reasonable levels. These operations are in the wholesale market involving wholesale traders and other market operators It is the aim of the market intervention operations to reduce the influence of these traders in the edible oil market by cutting their margins Further, it is Government's intention to curtail imports by undertaking effective market intervention operations Operation Flood imports did not help multinational corporations. They helped dairy cooperatives in India to set up adequate processing and drying capacities to make India self-sufficient in dairy commodities.

(c) The Standing Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture headed by Shri Sharad Joshi has just completed a review of market intervention operations carried out by NDDB The report of the Committee is under examination in the Department.

सिर पर मैले का ढोया जाना

1865. **श्री प्रमोद महाजन :** क्या शहरी विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में उन शहरों की संख्या कितनी है जहां पर अभी तक मैला सिर पर ढोया जा रहा है; और

(ख) इस प्रथा को पूर्ण रूप से समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाए जा रहे हैं?

शहरी विकास मंत्री (श्री मुरासोली मारन) : (क) जबकि राज्यों और संघ राज्य क्षेत्रों से कोई सही सूचना उपलब्ध नहीं है, यह अनुमान है कि देश के लगभग 3000 कस्बों में मानव द्वारा मल ढोने का सहारा लिया जा रहा है।

(ख) कल्याण मंत्रालय, गंगा कार्रवाई योजना, छोटे तथा मध्यम दर्जे के नगरों के एकीकृत विकास और हुडको से ऋणों के माध्यम से कम लागत के स्वच्छता एककों का निर्माण करके मानव द्वारा मल ढोने को समाप्त करने के लिए अलग योजनायें कार्यान्वयनाधीन थी। 8वीं योजना में अधिकतम सीमा तक मानव द्वारा मल ढोने को समाप्त करने के लिए सरकार की कार्रवाई योजना के एक भाग के रूप में अब ये योजनायें एकीकृत की गई हैं। इस योजना के अन्तर्गत 5 लाख से कम आबादी वाले 500 कस्बों को प्रति वर्ष मल ढोने की प्रथा से मुक्त घोषित किए जाने हैं। विद्यमान शुष्क शौचालयों को बदल कर या जहां खुले स्थान में मलत्याग का सहारा लिया जाता है वहां कम लागत के स्वच्छता एककों का निर्माण करके शहरी स्थानीय निकायों के माध्यम से यह योजना कार्यान्वित की जाएगी। यह निर्माण क्रियाकलाप हुडको के ऋण और केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा व्यक्तिगत लाभभोगियों को आर्थिक सहायता के माध्यम से होंगे। तथापि, केवल आर्थिक दृष्टि से कमजोर वर्ग और निम्न आय वर्गों को आर्थिक सहायता दी जाएगी। हुडको के माध्यम से निम्नलिखित वित्त पोषण पद्धति में ऋण और आर्थिक सहायता साथ-साथ दी जायेगी :-

आर्थिक दृष्टि से कमजोर वर्ग	45% आर्थिक सहायता, 50% ऋण और 5% लाभभोगियों का अंशदान